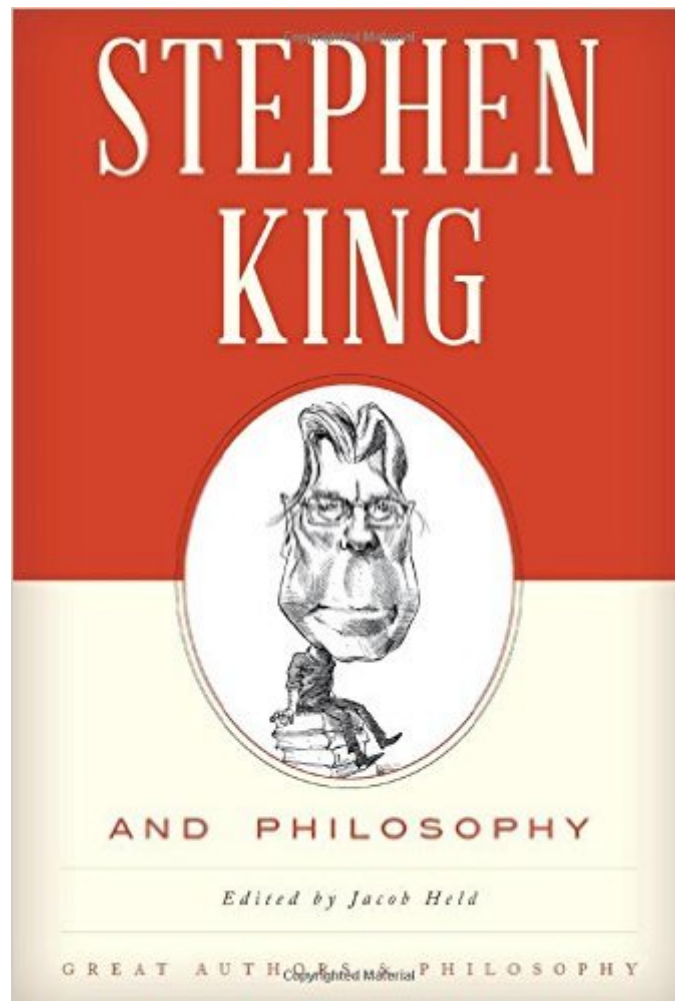


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Stephen King And Philosophy (Great Authors And Philosophy)



Synopsis

Haunting us with such unforgettable stories as *The Shining*, *The Shawshank Redemption*, *Salem's Lot*, *Carrie*, *The Green Mile*, and *Pet Sematary*, Stephen King has been an anchor of American horror, science fiction, psychological thrillers, and suspense for more than forty years. His characters have brought chills to our spines and challenged our notions of reality while leaving us in awe of the perseverance of the human spirit. The first book in the new Great Authors and Philosophy series, *Stephen King and Philosophy* reveals some of the deeper issues raised by King's work. From retribution, freedom, and moral relativity, to death and insanity, the chapters of this book expose how King's stories access the questions and fears that haunt each of us in the middle of the night.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The publisher sent me a free copy of this book for review. Five of the eighteen essays in this book (*Gan is Dead*; *What's Wrong with Roland*; *Time Belongs to the Tower*; *Ur*; and *Foreknowledge, Truth-Making, and Counterfactuals*) delivered what I expected to find. Philosophers who appear to have read and enjoyed King's books—and who are familiar with related popular stories—consider interesting philosophical issues accepting the tenets of various Steven King tales. These are all well written and entertaining, and give insight into the books as well as classic questions of philosophy. A larger group, eight essays (*There Is No God in Desperation*; *Heterotopia*;

Female Subjectivity in Carrie; Time Travel and the Nature of Time; From Desperation to Haven; Sometimes Dead is Better; Rāma of Gilead; and Aristotelian Friendship) discuss some philosophical issue with only superficial reference to King's stories. For example, it's true that in The Dark Tower series past moral choices influence the future. Of course that's also true in lots of other fiction as well. That general idea is related to the more specific and sophisticated Hindu idea of karma. So Rāma of Gilead gives a general account of Hindu karma, using The Dark Tower as an excuse. This doesn't deepen appreciation for King's work, but it's a pretty good overview sketch of basic Hindu philosophy. The first five essays are pompous, superficial and nearly unreadable; but the latter three are reasonably good general philosophical essays with illustrations from King's books. A general problem with these essays is they when they do mention King's stories, they are looking for answers. I don't think even the most fanatic Steven King fans think he has solved the philosophic conundrums of the ages.

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